



## Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense: Legislative Affairs

### *Legislative Update*

#### **ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR HOMELAND DEFENSE**

#### **DOD SUPPORT FOR HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY** **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2005, AS OF 0400**

##### **Command and Control**

- U.S. Northern Command Commander is Admiral Keating in Colorado Springs, Colorado.
- Joint Task Force Katrina Commander is Lieutenant General Honore at Camp Shelby, Mississippi.
- Joint Task Force Louisiana National Guard Commander is Major General Landreneau, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Joint Task Force Mississippi National Guard Commander is Major General Cross at Keesler AFB, Mississippi.

##### **Operational Highlights**

- 65,410 Active Duty and National Guard personnel are on the ground or aboard ships supporting relief operations.
  - 19,224 Active Duty.
  - 46,186 National Guard.
- 20 U.S. Navy ships are in the Joint Operational Area .
- Total aviation support includes Active Duty and National Guard aircraft:
  - 373 helicopters (175 Active Duty & 198 National Guard).
  - 93 airplanes (70 Active Duty & 23 National Guard).
- DoD has provided extensive search and rescue, evacuation, and medical support:
  - 4,019 active sorties flown – 598 in the past 24- hours.
  - 8,388 ANG /ARNG sorties flown – 409 in the past 24 hours
  - 77,769 people evacuated.
  - 14,275 people rescued.
  - 7,500 patients evacuated by ground and an additional 2,607 evacuated by air.
  - 5,707 patients treated.
- Projected flow of personnel for the next 24 – 48 hours: 3,267 Active Duty
- Joint Task Force Katrina (West) aboard the USS IWO JIMA



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- Lieutenant General Honore directed that no Federal military service member will perform or assist with any type of forced evacuation.
- 82nd Airborne Division, 1st Cavalry Division, I and II Marine Expeditionary Force conducting humanitarian assistance, search and rescue, evacuation and security assessments.
  - Primary operating area is Orleans Parish and St. Tammany Parish.
  - Evacuated 2,769 and rescued 51 displaced Americans
- Federal military forces in Mississippi will move to Louisiana; National Guard forces in Mississippi are sufficient.
- 54<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Corps, Fort Lee, Virginia, is standing-by at Fort Benning prepared to assist FEMA if required - unit consists of 13 teams with a capacity to process 260 bodies per day.
- USS WHIDBEY ISLAND and USS GRAPPLE in the area:
  - USS WHIDBEY ISLAND completed off-load of the Marine Air Ground Task Force.
  - USS GRAPPLE is on station to support salvage and clearing operations with the U.S. Coast Guard.
- USNS COMFORT, staffed to treat 250 patients and 750 beds to house support personnel, will arrive September 9.
- Biloxi Airport generator is receiving the highest priority to bring it back on line.
- Six installations are providing support as transportation staging areas for ice, water, medical supplies.
- 1,257 beds are available in field hospitals: New Orleans International Airport (25 beds), USS BATAAN (360 beds), USS IWO JIMA (360 beds), USS Tortuga (308 beds), and 14<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Hospital (204 beds)
- Deputy Secretary of Defense approved Federal funding for use of National Guard in Title 32 status to support relief operations – status is retroactive to August 29.
- The Vice President will visit the disaster area on September 8 – the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense will accompany; itinerary details have not been released.



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- Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas is the central collection point for supplies donated by foreign countries; eighty-nine nations and international organizations have offered assistance.
  - U.S. Government has accepted or plans to accept 49 offers of assistance.
  - To date the United Kingdom, France, and Italy have provided material assistance; decision to accept assistance from China, Spain, Israel, Egypt and Russia is pending.
  - Tinker Air Force Base, is available as back-up staging area, if required.

### **Useful Links**

Defense Department Special Briefing on Pentagon's Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts 9/7/05

<http://www.dod.mil/transcripts/2005/tr20050907-3864.html>

Secretary Rumsfeld and General Myers Operational Update 9/6/05

<http://www.dod.mil/transcripts/2005/tr20050906-secdef3862.html>